PLANNING FOR THE FIRST NATIONAL STUDY OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE HEAD PROGRAMS: THE AI/AN FAMILY AND CHILD EXPERIENCES SURVEY

Michelle Sarche – University of Colorado, Tribal Early Childhood Research Center
Jessica Barnes – Michigan State University
Jacki Haight – Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe Head Start Program

Presentation to the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference and Tribal Leaders Scholars Forum

June 28, 2015
GOALS

- Overview of the Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES)
- Planning for the inclusion of Region XI in FACES
- Next steps for Region XI
THE FAMILY AND CHILD EXPERIENCES SURVEY (FACES)

- Descriptive study of Head Start children, families and programs
- Nationally representative sample of Region I-X programs, centers, classrooms, children/families
- Region XI has not been included in FACES to date
- Redesign of FACES began in 2012 and is launching in Fall 2014
- Is different from the BIE FACE (Family and Child Education) program
WHAT HAS FACES PROVIDED?

- Source of national-level descriptive data on Head Start children, families, classrooms, and programs
  - Children’s school readiness outcomes (health & physical development, cognitive & social emotional development)
  - Head Start performance measures (program quality and child/family outcomes)
- Information to help improve services
- Information for examining changes over time (HS population, services, quality, outcomes)
- Ability to look at relationships between program characteristics, classroom quality, child outcomes
WHAT FACES IS NOT

- Not an impact study (no comparison group or control group)
- Not a measure of individual HS program performance
- Is not related to program monitoring
WHAT KINDS OF DATA ARE COLLECTED IN FACES?

- Head Start Parent Interview
- Head Start Child Direct Assessment
- Teacher Child Report
- Teacher Interview
- Program Director, Center Director, and Education Coordinator Interviews
- Classroom observation
FACES PRODUCTS

- Study reports and data tables
- Topical issue briefs
- Friendly FACES
- Response to data requests and requests for special analyses from OHS and others
- Archived data sets – Research Connections (@ University of Michigan)
  - Restricted use data sets
  - FACES instruments
  - Reports & publications
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A NATIONAL STUDY OF AI/AN HEAD START

- Questions about the **cultural appropriateness** of early childhood measures
- **Logistics** of sampling a geographically dispersed, culturally diverse population of sovereign nations
- The needs of tribal programs are unique and require intense stakeholder involvement to design a study that is meaningful and relevant for Region XI
What Region XI stakeholders have said…

- Tribal Head Start programs have been “invisible” when it comes to national research on Head Start.
- As a result, Region XI is lacking nationally-representative research data to inform decisions by congress, Office of Head Start, and tribal programs themselves.
- Participating in FACES will give Region XI the same kinds of rich descriptive information available to Regions I-X.
- These data will be an additional important source of information about the tribal programs – their challenges, their successes, and their needs.
THE AI/AN FACES WORKGROUP

Region XI Head Start Directors

Tribal Early Childhood Researchers

* University of Colorado
  * Michigan State University

Federal (ACF) Staff

* Office of Head Start
  * Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation

Contract Research Partners

* Mathematica Policy Research

AIAN FACES Workgroup
WORKGROUP TASKS

- As a reminder…FACES gathers information about
  - Children’s development and school readiness (cognitive, social-emotional, physical)
  - Families (demographics, parenting beliefs, satisfaction, mental health)
  - Teachers, classrooms, and programs

- Determining the alignment of Region XI FACES with FACES in Regions I-X
  - Align: same measures allow for comparison
  - Adapt: some measures won’t fit well and need to be changed
  - Add: some things we want to know about tribal programs are missing entirely

- Considering the factors that tribal programs will want to know about when deciding whether or not to participate
  - Tribal review and approval
  - Data ownership and access
  - Community confidentiality
ADDITIONAL REGION XI STAKEHOLDER INPUT

- Completed
  - OHS Tribal Consultations – Summer 2014
  - National Indian Head Start Directors Association Conferences – 2014, 2015
  - Region XI Webinars – Fall 2014
  - Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) – December 2014
  - ACF Tribal Advisory Council – Spring 2015
WHAT WILL REGION XI FACES LOOK LIKE?
22 REGION XI HEAD START PROGRAMS WILL BE RANDOMLY SELECTED.
AI/AN FACES WILL BE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL CHILDREN SERVED BY REGION XI

21,049 AI/AN & Non-AI/AN Children
Served by Region XI

- 18,247, 87%
- 2,808, 13%

- Non-AI/AN Children
- AI/AN Children
AI/AN CHILDREN SERVED IN REGIONS I-X WILL NOT BE IN REGION XI FACES

35,981 AI/AN Children Served by Head Start Regions I-XI in 2012-2013

18,247, 51%
17,734, 49%

In Region XI FACES
Not in Region XI FACES, in Region I-X FACES in small numbers

AI/AN Children in Regions I-X
AI/AN Children in Region XI
WHAT WILL WE LEARN FROM THIS STUDY?

- This will be the first-ever nationally representative study of Region XI Head Start programs.
- These data will help us to learn more about:
  - Region XI children’s cognitive and social-emotional growth in tribal Head Start programs from the beginning to the end of the year.
  - The kinds of things that are related to Region XI children’s growth, including what’s going on in Head Start and what’s going on at home.
  - The needs of children and families in Region XI.
  - How children and families in Region XI are similar to or different from children and families in Regions I-X.
WHAT CAN THE DATA BE USED FOR?

- Individual programs in Region XI
  - Individual programs will not see their data but...
  - Findings will give us a general picture of Region XI as a whole – programs can use study findings to think about how their program might be similar to or different from all of Region XI

- Region XI as a whole
  - Can argue for resources to address identified needs
  - Can argue for changes to policy and practice to better meet the needs
AI/AN FACES NEXT STEPS

Fall 2014
Region XI
Program Recruitment

Fall 2015
Child & Family Data Collection

Summer 2016
Analysis and Reporting begin

Spring 2015
Region XI Program Recruitment

Spring 2016
Child, Family, Teacher, Classroom, & Program Data Collection

Spring 2017
Teacher, Classroom, and Program Data Collection
REGION XI HEAD START PROGRAM
PARTICIPATION CONSIDERATIONS

- Participation is voluntary
- If a program declines, another program will be selected and asked to participate
- Tribal review and approval of the research will be obtained for each of the 22 selected programs
- Additional considerations
  - Participating programs will not get program level information
    - To protect individual participant confidentiality
    - Data will not be representative at the program level
  - Restricted use, de-identified data set
  - Being a part of something that is important to Region XI and research on Native children’s early development in general
RESOURCES

- Main FACES Federal Register notices – we will be publishing one specific to AI/AN FACES
  - February 2014 – 30 day notice for FACES program recruitment scripts [https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/02/12/2014-02949/submission-for-omb-review-comment-request](https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/02/12/2014-02949/submission-for-omb-review-comment-request)

- FACES reports accessible at:

- A Summary of Research and Publications on Early Childhood for American Indian and Alaska Native Children (March 2003)

- Establishing a Research Agenda for American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start Programs (March 2004)
QUESTIONS

- Michelle Sarche – michelle.sarche@ucdenver.edu
- Jacki Haight – jhaight@pgst.nsn.us
- Jessica Barnes – barness33@msu.edu
- Maria Woolverton – maria.woolverton@acf.hhs.gov